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## TEXAS MOSQUITOES CLOSE DOWN MILLS

Special to The Washington Herald.

Beaumont, Tex., Sept. 10.—The mosquito as a factor in the curtailment of lumber production is a new wrinkle, but that pestiferous insect is, nevertheless, a very potent factor in Southwestern Louisiana and Southeastern Texas at the present time. He is a burning-stinging, if you prefer, issue with the yellow pine manufacturers of this immediate territory.

It is understood here that several other large pine mills are closed down or are being seriously hampered in their work from the same cause. The trouble comes from the mosquitoes' attacks in clouds upon the mules and oxen employed in logging operations. These animals are harassed until it becomes quite impossible to work them. In many cases they run amuck or lie down and roll over in their efforts to rid themselves of the myriad mosquitoes which cover their hides.

**Rolls Live Bomb Over Parapet.**  
London, Sept. 10.—It is officially announced that Private W. J. Brown, of the Canadian Infantry, seized a burning shell and threw it over the parapet of a trench, where it at once exploded. Corporal R. A. Edmunds, of the same regiment, picked up an enemy trench mortar bomb and rolled it over the parapet of the trench, where it exploded.

## "I HAVE MANY GUNS" SAYS "PANCHITO" VILLA

El Paso, September 10.—From the seat of a wagon, Francisco Villa addressed the population of Satevo, Chihuahua, when his forces captured the town about two weeks ago, according to an American arriving here today. Villa was quoted as saying:

"You see before you 'Panchito' Villa, the bandit, but you see also that I am paying my soldiers in silver, and I promise you it will not be long until I have a large army. I now have plenty of machine guns and ammunition. You saw that neither the 'Gringos' nor the Carranzistas could catch me, even when I was ill. The 'Gringos' are harder fighters than the Carranzistas, but I beat them no animosity. All I am interested in is in punishing traitors and putting an end to Carranza."

**Charge Germans Raided Melon Patch.**  
Norfolk, Va., Sept. 10.—Rear Admiral McLean, commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, on the complaint of county officers, has ordered an investigation of the report that German sailors from the interned cruisers Prinz Eitel Friedrich and Kronprinz Wilhelm had raided the watermelon patch of a farmer.

**Civilians Evacuate Rovereto.**  
Rome, Sept. 10.—The Austrian military authorities have ordered the civilian population to evacuate Rovereto. The archives are being removed to Innsbruck. Rovereto is in the Adige Valley twelve miles south of Trent.

## BURLESON REPLIES TO ATTACK BY SHERMAN

Postmaster General Says Senator Was "Misinformed."

Postmaster General Burleson yesterday answered the attack made upon him last Friday in the Senate by Senator Lawrence Sherman, of Illinois. The chief allegation made by Senator Sherman was that the Postmaster General had profited through convict labor in Texas. He read from a Texas newspaper an article that alleged in 1909 the Burleson & Johns ranch was operated largely by convicts from Texas jail.

In his answer the Postmaster General says that he is unwilling to believe that a man elected to the United States Senate "would willingly lend himself as a tool for the dissemination of baseless slanders, hence I am forced to believe that some contemptible creature has shamefully deceived you."

Postmaster General Burleson's letter follows:

"I have just read of the attack on me made by you in the Senate on September 7th. To me, it is inconceivable that a man who has been elected to the United States Senate would willingly lend himself as a tool for the dissemination of baseless slanders, hence I am forced to believe that some contemptible creature has shamefully deceived you."

**Convict Labor in Texas.**

"For years the State of Texas, in an effort to solve the vexatious convict problem in the most humane way, has employed the unfortunate who have been convicted in her courts of felonies, in the cultivation of corn, cotton and cane, on plantations owned by the State.

"When the policy was adopted, Texas did not own cultivated land sufficient for this purpose. I was part owner of an isolated plantation which the State authorities deemed desirable to use in carrying out this policy. The owners of this plantation leased it to the State and for years it was so used. The plantation was leased, just as other landlords leased their lands to tenants, for a fractional part of the corn and cotton grown thereon, with this difference, namely: In ordinary cases, the landlord has some voice about the work done in cultivating his land, whereas in the lease of the plantation referred to the State authorities reserved the exclusive right to manage, control and discipline the labor used in its cultivation. Thus, you see, by no process of reasoning can you reach the conclusion that I either hired convict labor or was responsible for its management. Neither have I ever been charged with unfriendly labor nor a wanton slander of their leaders."

**Maj. Durham Efficient.**

"Maj. Thomas E. Durham, the superintendent of the plantation referred to, was employed by the State. He was an honest, efficient, capable servant of his State. He was indicted, as you charge, but it was believed by those in a position to know, that this indictment was secured in order to embarrass the then governor of Texas who was distantly related to Maj. Durham. The testimony relied on for his conviction was that of convicts, and in order for them to qualify as witnesses the governor was called on to pardon them. This he refused to do. Afterward, while another was governor, the case was disposed of and Maj. Durham was speedily acquitted. He was an applicant for a small post office appointment, and with the acquiescence of his Representative in Congress, I recommended his appointment. He made a popular and efficient officer. He is now dead and cannot speak for himself, but either Senator from Texas can tell you that he was a good citizen. These are the facts."

**Elected to Congress.**

"Desperate indeed must be the political situation, when men are driven to the adoption of such foul methods of fighting. Eight times I was unanimously nominated for Congress in the district where I was born and reared. Eight times I was elected five times without opposition from any party. Never during all those years were the Republicans of my district willing to sacrifice honesty and truth to the extent of even attempt-

ing to make the leasing to the State of the plantation referred to a political issue.

"I take it that you will be willing, when the facts are made known to you, to correct the vilely false impressions left on the minds of those who heard or may read the statements you made."

"Be honest and tell the truth. These are safe rules of human conduct. Their observance is necessary for those who enjoy the confidence of worthy men. Respectfully,

(Signed) "A. S. BURLESON."

## WIFE HUNTED "HEXES;" MAN GIVEN DIVORCE

Husband Quit When Knife-Missed Nose by an Inch.

Reading, Pa., Sept. 10.—Still a believer in "hexes," the German term for witchcraft in this part of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Laura Gable, of this city, has just learned that charms and incantations may be more successful in keeping away witches than in keeping a husband.

"John Gable, my husband, in divorce, yesterday recommended a decree to Joseph H. Gable, whose life appears to have been anything but monotonous because of his wife's weird superstitions. Mr. Gable decided that Mrs. Gable's campaign to prevent him from leaving her by the use of charms and incantations was more productive of household harmony. His recommendation is equivalent to a decree."

Mr. Gable testified he did not mind so much when Mrs. Gable marked a double cross on the door to keep away witches and wore a charm around her neck and papers with prayers and incantations in her hair for the purpose of keeping the evil one where he belonged.

When the divorce came the night when Mr. Gable was awakened by a shout of "Abadabada!" and found a keen-bladed knife driven into the pillow within an inch of his nose. Although satisfied that any "hex" which might have been lurking under the pillow was no longer, Mr. Gable felt no inclination for further slumber, and passed the rest of the night in the attitude of a sentinel fearing a surprise attack from the enemy's front line trench. The action for divorce followed. After what he has been told, Mr. Gable said he would have no fear in meeting the maddest "hex" that ever rode a broomstick face to face.

## BREAD PRICE INCREASE WORRIES GOVERNMENT

Prosecutions May Result from Official Investigations.

The administration is seriously concerned over the bread situation, and views with alarm the threat of bakers to increase the price of the loaf.

Government investigations already are in progress, and it is believed here, that criminal prosecutions will result if the price of bread actually is increased and two facts can be established. These are: That there is no economic justification for increase, and that the bakers have acted in association.

An official said today there must be an investigation and the facts of it detailed to the public so the public by the weight of its expressed opinion may force down any attempt to increase unjustly the price of bread. The Federal Trade Commission, through Chairman Edward N. Hurley, has been making an investigation of the economic phases of the question. He is now in Chicago authorized by the commission to pursue this inquiry as far as he deems necessary.

**Prosecution Possible.**

It was stated that if there were an agreement among bakers to increase the price of bread it would be equivalent to a conspiracy, and that they could be prosecuted either under the common law or the anti-trust act.

Two natural causes for a possible increase of the price of bread are seen by some authorities here. It was said the great demand for wheat has been for armies, thus lessening the supply of this country. The other cause is the reduction of this year's wheat crop, which is said to be approximately 20 per cent less than last year's crop.

## PRICE OF ICE CREAM MAY BE INCREASED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

No doubt in my mind but that the price of ice cream will advance accordingly.

"It would be practically impossible for manufacturers to continue business with any degree of profit. In many other cities ice cream manufacturers advanced prices when sugar prices were increased. In Washington, however, the prices have remained unchanged. The rise, I believe, will necessitate an increase in the prices now charged by retailers. It probably will doom the 5-cent plates."

Another prominent ice cream manufacturer backed Mr. Young up in his statement. He requested that he be not quoted but said that as milk was the most important ingredient in the manufacture of the commodity, he believed it certain that an advance in the price of ice cream would take effect when milk prices increased. He said that when one important commodity was increased in price it was certain that all other goods in which it was needed for manufacture would of necessity advance with it.

Many other dealers expressed opinions which coincided with these statements. The committee named by the milk producers' convention will begin immediately to investigate the situation. They will take the pulse of Washington markets and also will interest the Agricultural Department in bringing about a solution. Until a report is made to the next convention, which has been called for September 23, nothing definite can be predicted as to just how much of an advance may be made. In the event such a course is chosen, the committee consists of Westmoreland Davis, of Leesburg, Va.; Judson C. Welliver, of Washington; William H. Chambers, of Barnesville, Md.; Frank E. Walker, of Woodbury Forest, Va., and Herman E. Gasch, of Washington.

The general opinion as to a probable rise in the price of bread is divided, many of the leading bakers believing an advance inevitable while others maintain that the 5-cent loaf will remain. Nothing definite has been done, however, and the majority are awaiting the outcome of the market quotations for the next few weeks.

**Shoveling Pays Club Dues.**

Elk River, Minn., Sept. 10.—You aren't in it any more in Sherburne County unless you are a clubman. Chuck Hole clubs are being organized in many towns. The obligation is the filling of one chuck hole each month. Practically every day automobile loads of clubmen may be seen starting for the country armed with picks and shovels to pay their club dues.

**Gamblers Break His Neck.**

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 10.—When the police made a raid on a crap game in the house being built at Sixty-first street and Springfield avenue, James H. Allen, 27 years old, of 1548 South Capital street, was run into by the gamblers, knocked to the sidewalk and received what it is University Hospital physicians believe to be a broken neck.

## PULLMAN INAUGURATES SAFETY FIRST METHODS

Decrease in Accidental Deaths Due to Police Vigilance.

With a view to reducing danger to canoeists and other river enthusiasts, Maj. Raymond W. Pullman, superintendent of police, already is planning for police detail and safety methods to be adopted next summer. It is the intention of Maj. Pullman to place additional life buoys along the shores of the Potomac and establish life-saving stations if possible.

Much was accomplished this summer by the department in effecting a more efficient degree of safety for river pleasure seekers, particularly in the matter of life-saving and swimming lessons. This branch was under the direction of Policeman Brunner, who instructed many of the campers, both men and women, who frequented the shores between Chain and Aqueduct bridges.

**Life-Saving Instruction Given.**

In speaking of the river situation Maj. Pullman said:

"I hope that the river will be much safer next year. The policemen have been instructed in the life-saving methods and we hope to make experts out of as many as possible. The department will do all possible to have additional life buoys along the shore and to establish life-saving stations. Policeman Brunner has given life saving lessons to practically all the campers between the Chain and Aqueduct bridges, and is holding swimming classes for men and women. I hope to have him make a thorough campaign with the school children again this winter."

**Regatta Offers Opportunity.**

The regatta offered excellent opportunity for police work, both on shore and on the water. River accidents are frequent in crowds, so selected men were detailed to patrol. Special instructions were given to the forty policemen who guarded the shore lines. People were absolutely prevented from getting near any dangerous place. The Vigilant patrol of the river constantly and was supported by half a dozen smaller motor boats, each equipped with first aid.

few years ago several persons were drowned in the spillway near the Great Falls boathouse. This year the current was strong and would have upset a canoe not handled by an expert. A barge was anchored in a safety zone and all canoes warned away, thus surely preventing an accident and possibly a fatality. The department administered aid in a few cases of exhaustion.

"There's a reason for all this security," said Maj. Pullman. "I believe it results from three things, namely: that people in general are becoming more careful and realizing that life is worth saving; that the widespread idea of safety first with all its fine points of conservation has rooted itself both in the mind of the individual and the corporations; and that the department is taking an active interest in making the District safe and free from accident."

"On Labor Day we were anticipating accidents, because of the crowded conditions at all resorts but mostly at the auto races and the regatta, because of their very nature. We had the race track officials cooperate with us and mapped out a plan whereby an officer and association guard could be conveniently and advantageously placed at each point where accidents were most likely to occur. The department sent thirty-five men and were assisted by about twenty from the management."

In speaking of Washington's record for fatal accidents, Maj. Pullman said that the average for the past few years had been less than twenty. He said that this was the only city in the country showing a decrease in such a record.

## GOSPEL IRRESISTIBLE, SAYS BAPTIST PASTOR

The first anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. Howard L. Stewart was celebrated at the Second Baptist Church yesterday.

It was announced that more than 200 new members had been received during the year.

Rev. Stewart delivered sermons at both the morning and evening services. In the forenoon he used as his subject, "A Shameless Preacher." He said in part: "In Paul's day Christianity was the religion of the rabble. Today the tread of the gospel is as a veritable march of the conquerors. Of many things done in the name of religion and of many follies of Christians we may well be ashamed, but of the gospel and of Jesus we need never be ashamed," he said.

## NEUTRAL ZONE OPINION TO BE ASKED OF BLISS

Expected to Discuss Pursuit of Mexican Bandits.

Maj. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, Assistant Chief of Staff of the army, is awaiting word from the joint American-Mexican commission designating the time for his appearance before it. Secretary of War Baker received yesterday a telegram from Secretary of the Interior Lane requesting that Gen. Bliss be permitted to testify before the commission. Mr. Baker wired his permission and asked Mr. Lane to state the time.

Gen. Bliss is expected to present information concerning the military situation on and across the Mexican border, explaining the requirement for adequate protection of the American side from the raids of Mexican marauders.

Gen. Bliss is expected to advise the commission upon the practicability of the Carranza proposal for a neutral belt along the border and for an "arrangement whereby the two countries reciprocally may dispatch troops on 'a hot trail' in pursuit of lawless persons."

**Think Boys Were River Pirates.**

Wilmington, Del., Sept. 10.—With the arrest of three small boys, today, the belief that river piracy along the Christiana and Brandywine Rivers will end. For five or six weeks launches moored at local wharves have been robbed of brass fittings, lead, clothing and other articles, so completely stripped that they were put out of commission.

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